

Mr. James Rhodes  
Manager/Secretary  
Yuma Mesa Irrigation and  
Drainage District  
14329 So. Fourth Avenue Extension  
Yuma, Arizona 85365

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

Pursuant to Part 417 of Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), this letter is to inform you of the determination of the Department of the Interior regarding the proposed schedule of diversions and beneficial use of Colorado River water during calendar year (CY) 2003 by the Yuma Mesa Irrigation and Drainage District (District).

Acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and pursuant to a specific delegation of authority from the Secretary, this is the final 43 C.F.R. Part 417 determination of an approved Colorado River water order for the District for CY 2003.

The 2003 AOP provides that in the event that the Quantification Settlement Agreement and its related documents are executed by December 31, 2002, consistent with the applicable provisions of the Interim Surplus Guidelines, the Full Domestic Surplus will govern releases for use in the Lower Basin States of Arizona, Nevada and California during CY 2003. The 2003 AOP also provides that in the event that the Quantification Settlement Agreement and its related documents are not executed by December 31, 2002, consistent with applicable provisions of the Interim Surplus Guidelines, the Normal determination will govern releases for use in the States of Arizona, Nevada and California during CY 2003.

Based upon our consultation with you on September 17, 2002, and the estimates of diversions required by the District which were provided to our Boulder Canyon Operations Office, the District's diversion schedule and total diversions of 207,800 acre-feet for CY 2003 are approved. Nothing in this approval should be construed as authorizing the Yuma Mesa Division of the Gila Project to exceed the Division's annual consumptive use entitlement of up to 250,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water.

We will be monitoring and projecting consumptive use of Colorado River water during CY 2003 in an effort to ensure that the annual entitlement of each authorized user is not exceeded. These projections will be made available to the water users monthly during 2003. It is expected

that the District will use this information to adjust diversions to remain within approved annual quantities.

Sincerely,

Bennett W. Raley  
Assistant Secretary  
for Water and Science

cc: Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation

Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region  
Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Gerald Zimmerman  
Executive Director  
Colorado River Board of  
California  
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100  
Glendale, California 91203-1035

Mr. Joseph C. Smith  
Director  
Arizona Department of  
Water Resources  
500 North Third Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Mr. James H. Davenport  
Chief, Water Division  
Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
555 East Washington Ave., Suite 3100  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Mr. James Rhodes

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bc: Secretary's Surname

Secretary's Reading File (2)

AS/WS (3)

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W-1125, W-1530

Area Manager, Yuma, Arizona

Attention: YAO-1000

Area Manager, Boulder City, Nevada

Attention: BCOO-1000

BCOO-4200

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